

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 FMC-01 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 CTME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 /049 W
-----012682 281445Z /43
R 281416Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7258
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EWWT EG
SUBJECT: BOYCOTT: PASSAGE OF BLACKLISTED SHIPS THROUGH
- SUEZ CANAL

REF: (A) STATE 75212 (NOTAL), (B) CAIRO 9344

1. SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN MASHHOUR WAS ASKED BY
EMBOFFS MARCH 28 ABOUT SCA POLICY CONCERNING PASSAGE OF
SHIPS ON ARAB BOYCOTT LIST. MASHHOUR DREW CAREFUL
DISTINCTION BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCA AND REST
OF GOE, SPECIFICALLY MINISTRY OF MARITIME TRANSPORT.
MASHHOUR SAID SCA WAS CONCERNED WITH FLAG OF REGISTRY OF
VESSELS. IMPLICATION OF HIS COMMENTS, THOUGH NOT
SPECIFICALLY STATED, WAS THAT SCA WOULD PERMIT ANY NON-
ISRAELI FLAG VESSEL TO TRANSIT CANAL IF IT MET OTHER
STIPULATED REQUIREMENTS ABOUT SAFETY, CREW, ETC.
MASHHOUR DID STATE SCA ALLOWS TRANSIT OF SHIPS CARRYING
ISRAELI CARGOES. SHIPS ARE QUERIED AS TO DESTINATION,
BUT DESTINATION IN ISRAEL DOES NOT AFFECT POLICY OF
UNIMPEDED TRANSIT.

2. MASHHOUR NOTED PRE-1967 POLICY DENIED TRANSIT OF
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VESSELS PROCEEDING DIRECTLY TO ISRAEL, BUT THIS NO
LONGER THE CASE.

3. ASKED WHETHER GOE LIMITED BUNKERING AND SUPPLY
SERVICES TO BLACKLISTED SHIPS, MASHHOUR REPLIED SUCH
SERVICES ARE OUTSIDE SCA KEN. SHIPS SUPPLIES ARE MATTER
FOR PUBLIC-SECTOR SHIPPING AGENCIES UNDER MINISTRY

MARITIME TRANSPORT. MASHHOUR COULD NOT SPEAK FOR SHIPPING AGENCIES, THOUGH HE KNEW OF NO POLICY TO LIMIT SERVICES.

4. AMCONSUL PORT SAID WILL TAKE UP QUESTION WITH DIRECTOR SUEZ CANAL AREA SHIPPING AGENCIES, HEADQUARTERED IN PORT SAID.

5. COMMENT: WE THINK MASHHOUR IS BEING SLIGHTLY DISINGENUOUS IN HIDING BEHIND BUREAUCRATIC LINES OF RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY BY SAYING SCA IS CONCERNED ONLY WITH FLAG OF VESSEL. WHILE TECHNICALLY TRUE, SCA UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO IS WELL AWARE OF MIN MARITIME TRANSPORT'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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